

House bill allowing from first day of April next a drawback on mowing machines, reaping machines, plows, and harrows.

A new section provided that on and after April 1st, 1867 there shall be allowed a drawback to the import duty paid on all iron, copper and cordage which shall be wrought up into the construction of sailing vessels of the United States or used in repairing vessels of foreign build.

Pastoral Letter to the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Mississippi.

DEAR BRETHREN :—Among the many duties arising out of the present crisis in our

none which more imperiously or more immediately claims our attention than that of contributing our help towards the moral and intellectual improvement of the colored population now in our midst. You will all remember that in the Convention of the American Convention, I expressed in brief but very decided terms my views on this subject; and the journals of the Diocese will show that even as far back as 1853 or 1854, I recommended a moderate and judicious regard for such slaves as were distinguishing themselves for good behavior.

By the recent revolution in our political world, this unhappy class is presented before us in a new aspect, not as formerly, only as master and slave, but as the cold, compulsory and unsympathetic relation of hireling and employer. An insupportable procreancy has so ordered that the slave who once stood in an almost filial relation to us, is now a wretched being, without a claim, for food and clothing and shelter, and nursing, care and instruction in the things of God, is now without preparation for his untended state, thrown upon his own resources, and with the unphilanthropic "thick-soled" feeling, as far as he can, for the necessities of both body and soul,

This change in national feeling upon the happy race of laborers was never known upon the face of the earth, nor any who were in general so kindly treated, so moderately tasked, or so amply rewarded for the work of their hands. That they were content with their condition and strongly attached to their owners, their conduct throughout the late war—when our wives and children, and our aged parents were entirely at their mercy—will abundantly attest. They were not misled by the hand of blind fanaticism saw fit to sow discontent among them, thereby riveting the chains which they thought to break, a gradual but marked improvement was going on

tion. A more general sympathy was felt in their behalf; the strong arm of the law was extended frequently in their defence; no barrier was interposed to prevent an honest and trustworthily servant from learning to read his Bible; and thousands upon thousands might have been seen uniting in prayer, and kneeling at the same altar with the masters and the free. The negroes at the round of every day delight to give to them the amusement of each Lord's day, and to receive a considerable number into the folds of the church. Now those once happy congregations are broken up; not one negro has approached me on the subject of religion since their emancipation, they love to go where their animal feelings can be most strongly excited, and in the country, where they are not so much restrained by laws, there they have aught rather to sustain the love

est kind of superstition which their fathers brought with them from the shores of Africa, and which is the basis of the whole meaning of the term) which was before unknown and unthought of, is now forced upon us. To replace him in his former state, however desirable on his own account, not *ours*, is now beyond the power of those who know him best, and feel for him most deeply. We are compelled, therefore, to look around and see in what manner we can best regulate his conduct, and satisfy his various and conflicting claims which his ignorance, improvidence and helplessness impose upon us. To treat him with kindness on our daily unavoidable intercourse with him, to be fair and even generous in making contracts with him, to be punctual in the fulfillment of our engagements, and to make all due allowance for

ing upon us that I pass at once to that other, and I may say, no less important obligation of providing a suitable measure of instruction for him, especially in his civil freedom. These are called by his evil genius, motives of self-interest, as well as of gratitude and humanity. If this race, of equals, if not superiors, in numbers, are to remain in the midst of us, a sound policy, no less than christian charity demands that we should do all in our power to elevate them. It is not only in the interest of the nation, but they have been more worthy of the political status that has been thrust upon them. This end can in no way be more effectually accomplished than by establishing schools for their instruction, on the various plantations and country neighborhoods, as well as in our cities, and by employing suitable teachers to take them in hand. It is not probable that a separate school house might be erected by two or more neighboring planters, and the burden of providing books and teachers be thus divided among them. Through a provision of Congress, a liberal allowance has been made for the rent of each school house, which rent may fairly be appropriated by the planter towards the payment of the teacher.

In carrying out this object I am happy to inform you that every facility within his power will be afforded by Gen. Thomas J. Wood, Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, whose headquarters are at Vick-

gentleman prompts me to say that, whilst scrupulous in the performance of his duty to his country, and to his Government, he warmly feels for the deplorable condition of our Southern country, and desires to hold in equal balance the interests of both the whites and blacks. He will take pleasure in giving all necessary information and instruction to any one disposed to receive it.

Let me, therefore, dear brethren, earnestly commend to your serious and prompt attention the intellectual and moral improvement of those who were lately our faithful slaves. To my brethren of the Clergy I trust nothing more need be said than to tell you that the souls of our colored brethren, who are bound to do all the good they can to all men without distinction of grade or color. To my brethren of the laity, especially those who are planters, other motives besides those of Christian charity address themselves; for they must know

cure as many hirings as he wants, and to
 keep them obedient and contented through-
 out their contract, who gives them the as-
 surance that he will provide for the instruc-
 tion of their children. Let us each, then,
 in our several stations, and according to
 our ability give ourselves to this necessary
 work, looking to the Giver of all grace, both
 for the help and the reward that
 assuredly follow our faithful labors in so
 humane and holy a cause.

Your loving Bishop under Christ,
 WILLIAM M. MURPHY, GREEN.

COLUMBUS, Dec. 14, 1866.
